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## Reviews of Foreign Literature.

*Revisio Generum Plantarum secundum leges nomenclaturæ internationales cum enumeratio plantarum exoticarum.* Otto Kuntze (Part iii., Section 1, Leipzig, London, Milan, New York and Paris, 1893).

Since the publication of the first two parts of his now famous "Revisio," Dr. Kuntze has traveled extensively in South America and made large collections, the enumeration of which will make the greater portion of the third part of his work. On his return from his journeyings in the spring of the present year he found the questions of botanical nomenclature opened by his first volumes still considerably unsettled, at least in Europe, and determined to add to his previous important contributions to this subject.

The greater number of the pages at present noticed are taken up with the collation of everything that has been written on nomenclature during the last year and a half, with criticisms and suggestions thereon by the author, in which he naturally approves the remarks of those who have agreed with him, and pays his respects to those by whom he has been attacked. One hundred and twenty-four authors are cited and their writings abstracted nearly in full; of these, nineteen are Americans.

Chapters follow on "Orthographical License," in which a very complete list of similar but not identical generic names is presented, and a long series of principles proposed to determine which should be allowed to stand and which should be rejected, illustrating Dr. Kuntze's great linguistic attainments; on modifications of the Paris Code; on "1753, die Nomenclatur der Unbewussten," where he argues against the acceptance of the date of publication of the first edition of Linnæus' "Species Plantarum" as the point of departure in nomenclature of genera and species, thus disagreeing with the decision of the Genoa Congress, with that of the North American botanists and of the editors of the "Index Kewensis;" on "1737, der neue Compromise," where he indicates his present willingness to yield the 1735 date, in favor of 1737, and in this as in the preceding chapter gives a list of generic names which would be changed from those taken up in his previous

volumes. The paper closes with a proposed list of international symbols for briefly designating various features of plants and with a summary of the principles of nomenclature which he thinks should now be adopted, consisting of seventy-five articles printed in German, English and French.

That Dr. Kuntze's contributions to the science of plant nomenclature have been the most valuable, the most voluminous and the most important ever made goes without saying. Their results however prove conclusively to our mind that uniform international agreement on all points is unattainable by the recommendations of congresses or persons to which the whole botanical world is expected to fully assent. We believe that uniform usage can be secured, however, by the adoption of a series of simple principles, supplementary to and explanatory of the Paris Code of 1867, by a national group of botanists who will carry them out to the letter to the best of their knowledge and allow no exceptions whatever to interfere. This is what the North American botanists have well begun by the legislation effected at the Rochester and Madison meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the preparation and printing of the catalogue of fern and flowering plants of Northeastern America there authorized, based on these principles, which is now in press.

We are more fortunate than our European brethren, inasmuch as we have no very great amount of inertia to overcome, and we have the instructive example of the previous work in just the same line by our ornithological colleagues, whose principles are receiving wider and wider adhesion, and who have not deviated one iota from their rules adopted some seven years ago. Bickerings over nomenclature are practically a thing of the past among our students of the feathered race. We believe that this millennium has arrived for our botanists. That errors will now and then be made in the readjustment of names is a necessary accompaniment of the conditions, but they can readily be corrected.

And this is the movement which the learned editor of the "Journal of Botany" facetiously and somewhat wrathfully alludes to as "the neo-American epidemic." Well, epidemics do a great deal of good, we believe, in the elimination of the weak and facilitating the survival of the fittest, and as to his compound adjective

we cannot object, for everything American is new, and long may it so remain. But what will he think some day if some feeble-minded person may happen to designate the methods which he advocates as "palæo-Anglic?"

N. L. B.

### Proceedings of the Club.

TUESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 10, 1893.

The President in the chair and twenty-five persons present.

A communication from Mr. Hartley C. Wolle, of Bethlehem, Pa., addressed to the President, was read, presenting to the Club a copy of Turner's Fresh Water Algae of East India, said copy having been forwarded by the author to the father of the writer, the Rev. Francis Wolle, who however did not live to receive it.

A communication to the Secretary from Sr. Luis Sodiro, of Quito, Ecuador, was read, accepting the honor of a corresponding membership in the Club and presenting a copy of his work on the Vascular Cryptogams of Ecuador. Dr. Britton spoke of the value of this work.

The scientific programme of the evening was then taken up, and summer experiences were related.

Dr. C. C. Curtiss reported his experiences during the summer at Wood's Holl, at Gay Head and at Casco Bay, where he collected many algae.

Mr. John K. Small stated that he had collected in Georgia, where he had been especially interested in the mosses, but had made large general collections. He was able to report on extension of the range of many species, the rediscovery of a number of rarities and the finding of a number of new species.

Mr. A. A. Heller had interested himself especially in the Southern Virginia boundary, the limit of the Manual region. His most interesting work had been the addition of quite a number of plants to the Manual list, notably that of *Cyrilla*. He thought that in order for collectors to be successful in this region it was very necessary that they consult the proper seasons for visiting respectively the coast region, the foot hills and the mountains.